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In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 20, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

In another embodiment, the compound is a ribozyme which is capable of inhibiting expression of RAGE. In another embodiment, the compound is an anti-RAGE antibody, an anti-AGE antibody, or an anti-V-domain of RAGE antibody. The antibody may be monoclonal, polyclonal, chimeric, humanized, or primatized. The compound may be a fragment of such antibody.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 20, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment, the antibody may be capable of specifically binding to RAGE. The antibody may be a monoclonal antibody[[,]] or a polyclonal antibody. The portion or fragment of the antibody may comprise a F_{ab} fragment or a F_c fragment. The portion or fragment of the antibody may comprise a complementary determining region or a variable region.